



Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2019
Room 326, City/County Building
12:00 p.m.

Mission: The CAC exists to provide citizen input into the safety of the citizens of Lewis and Clark County, the efficient and just treatment of defendants and offenders, the protection and healing of victims, and to work toward prevention of crime and the reduction of recidivism.

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Curt Chisholm called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and read the mission statement.

Members present: Curt Chisholm (Chair), Stephanie Ballenger-Brooks, Dennis Taylor, Carolyn Belling, John Lytle, Judy Rolfe, Mike Mahoney, Gene Prendergast, Abigail J. St. Lawrence, Theresa Charlton, Marshall Gingery, and John Wilkinson.

Members excused: Moffie Funk and Tom Cordingley.

Members absent: Theresa Ortega

Others in attendance: Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, Mayor Jamie Schell, Michael Kalous, Jen Gursky, Michael Kalous, Kellie McBride and Gloria Soja.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

No action was taken as meeting was not properly noticed.

3. Discussion of Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Meeting

Curt Chisholm stated that at the last CJCC meeting Jen Gursky's nomination to the CAC was approved. Matt Hoffman's nomination was withdrawn, pending review of Hoffman's current probation status, an issue raised by District Court Judge Kathy Seeley. Christin Thennis agreed to investigate Hoffman's status.

4. Presentation by Six Questions Task Force – John Wilkinson

John Wilkinson's Task Force report was e-mailed out prior to the meeting. John Wilkinson stated that the screening tool AC-OK had been implemented at the detention center. Wilkinson expressed concern over the lack of data availability. Kellie McBride stated that a strong proposal had been received for the Data Project Manager and that this position will help to move the data piece forward.

The Committee discussed the number of detainees who are under the supervision of the Department of Corrections and the cost to counties. Mike Mahoney stated that this non-legislative year was a good time to research this issue. Moffie Funk state the fiscal note from 2017 was between \$21 to \$23 million, and that there was strong support for addressing this issue with the state. Mike Mahoney stated that Montana was the only state where the District Court could assign someone to the Department of Corrections, with the

Department of Corrections determining placement and/or release. Curt Chisholm requested that the CAC invite Christin Thennis to explain the Department of Corrections and their procedures regarding detention.

5. Discussion of Mental Health Services in Lewis and Clark County

Commissioner Andy Hunthausen stated that Western Montana Mental Health had informed the Commission that they were withdrawing from Lewis and Clark County. Hunthausen presented an overview of the history of mental health services in Lewis and Clark County, including mental health services in the jail, Our Place drop in center, and the Journey Home. Hunthausen stated that the County remains committed to providing mental health services.

Hunthausen stated that the County decided to internalize the mental health positions in the jail, as this would allow greater consistency in services and longevity for the positions. Western was informed that their contract for these services would not be renewed.

Hunthausen stated that the County spends approximately \$300,000 for CRT services. State law requires contract greater than \$80,000 be put out to bid. Western was invited to bid on this RFP and encouraged to continue to provide services in the County. Western elected to pull all services from Lewis and Clark County.

Hunthausen highlighted that the County is at a crossroads, facing some challenges and opportunities. Our Place and Journey Home, currently housed under Criminal Justice Services, will move under Public Health. The LAC will host a forum on December 10, 2019, at the hospital to begin a strategic behavioral health plan. The hospital and the Center for Mental Health have agreed to help provide short-term crisis response and mental health services at the jail, during the time of transition.

6. Dashboard Update on Criminal Justice Services

The Dashboard Update was sent prior to the meeting via e-mail.

7. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

8. Next Meeting: January 31, 2020

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Minutes approved January 31, 2020.